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No Change In Class. ☐
☒ General policy in ☐
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Date: 198802278
By: 016

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"Foreign Service Travel Regulations should be consulted for clarification of all problems involving personal travel." Foreign Service Circular No. 81 is not a Department of State "regulation," but is a statement of that Department's policy which internally has the same effect. A representative of this office consulted a State Department representative who was instrumental in originating Foreign Service Circular No. 81 and was advised that the cited provision of that Section was State Department's policy interpretation of the statute and the legislative intent. The State Department also stated that the Circular had the tacit clearance of their General Accounting Office site auditor although no formal request for an opinion on the subject had been submitted to the Comptroller General.

5. Since no formal ruling on this subject has been made by the Comptroller General, it is at this time a matter of policy determination whether this Agency should follow the State Department's informal interpretation or whether the reference cable, as written, should be released. However, if existing Agency regulations are to be followed, the proposed cable would be in conflict. The Agency, of course, could modify its policy, and your approval of this cable would have this effect.

6. In the absence of operational considerations, it would seem highly desirable as a matter of consistency with State Department policies that the Agency adhere to a policy of having the referenced Foreign Service Circular 81 be considered binding on Agency personnel.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

Att.

APPROVED:

L. K. WHITE
Deputy Director (Support)

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